

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of storing digitally-encoded material, the method comprising:

employing a processor to execute computer executable instructions stored in memory to perform the following acts:

combining a unique identifier with the digitally-encoded material and encrypting the combination of the unique identifier and the digitally-encoded material, wherein the unique identifier persists throughout the lifetime of the digitally-encoded material, regardless of any changes made to any portion of the digitally-encoded material, and wherein the unique identifier further persists in copies and other derived digitally-encoded material such that copies and derived digitally-encoded material include both the unique identifier of the digitally-encoded material and a new unique identifier for the copy or derived digitally-encoded material;

associating one or more built-in functions with the encrypted digitally-encoded material such that the unique identifier and the built-in functions are coupled to the digitally-encoded material, the built-in functions governing transforms and rendering of the digitally-encoded material, wherein the digitally-encoded material can be transformed and rendered only by the built-in functions and wherein at least one of the built-in functions is configured to automatically notify a selected entity when a specified built-in function has been executed or when execution has been attempted;

storing a list of processors that are permitted to execute the built-in functions;

receiving information regarding a first processor attempting to execute one or more of the built-in functions;

verifying if the first processor attempting to execute the built-in functions is on the list of processors; and

permitting the first processor to execute the one or more built-in functions if the processor is on the list else preventing the first processor from executing the one or more

built-in functions.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
associating a history of the digitally-encoded material with the digitally-encoded material.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
associating a history of the digitally-encoded material, the history being located in a database.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the built-in functions include one or more of Copy, Paste or Print.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further including an encrypt function and a decrypt function with the built-in functions that enables the digitally-encoded material to be stored in RAM in an encrypted form.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for tracking digitally-encoded material, the method comprising:

employing a processor to execute computer executable instructions stored in memory to perform the following acts:

appending a unique identifier to the digitally-encoded material, wherein the unique identifier persists throughout the lifetime of the digitally-encoded material, regardless of any changes made to any portion of the digitally-encoded material, and wherein the unique identifier further persists in copies and other derived digitally-encoded material such that copies and derived digitally-encoded material include both the unique identifier of the digitally-encoded material and a new unique identifier for the copy or derived digitally-encoded material;

encrypting a combination including the digitally-encoded material and the unique identifier; and

appending built-in function source code to the encrypted combination to form an executable entity capable of being executed independent of a particular operating system, wherein the digitally-encoded material can be transformed and rendered only by the built-in functions and wherein at least one of the built-in functions is configured to automatically notify a selected entity when a specified built-in function has been executed or when execution has been attempted;

receiving information regarding a disparate processor accessing the built-in function source code for execution;

allowing the disparate processor to execute a function associated with the built-in function source code if the disparate processor is included in a list of processors permitted to execute the function;

barring the disparate processor from executing the function associated with the built-in function source code if the disparate processor is not included in the list of processor permitted to execute the function.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the built-in functions include one or more of Copy, Paste or Print.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the built-in functions include rendering functions and transform functions.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the rendering functions include one or more of close, find shape, full screen, go to, guides, help, open, order, pan, properties, reveal, rotate/flip, search, select, size and position, spell check, or zoom.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the transform functions include one or more of copy, DRM Agent, export, insert, log, new, paste, print, replace, or save as.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising: a document configured to enable tracking, and the following processor executable components:

a unique identifier, wherein the unique identifier persists throughout the lifetime of the document, regardless of any changes made to any portion of the document, and wherein the unique identifier further persists in copies and other derived digitally-encoded material such that copies and derived digitally-encoded material include both the unique identifier of the digitally-encoded material and a new unique identifier for the copy or derived digitally-encoded material;
digitally-encoded material associated with the unique identifier;

one or more built-in functions coupled to the digitally-encoded material, the built-in functions govern transforms and render the digitally-encoded material independent of a particular operating system, and wherein the digitally-encoded material can be transformed and rendered only by the built-in functions and wherein at least one of the built-in functions is configured to automatically notify a selected entity when a specified built-in function has been executed or when execution has been attempted; and

a list of processors associated with each of the built-in functions such that whenever a processor attempts to execute one or more of the built-in functions, it is verified if the processor is comprised within the list of processors before permitting the processor to carry out the one or more built-in functions, the processor is prevented from executing the one or more functions if it is not included in the list of processors associated with each of the one or more built-in functions.

12. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 11 wherein the document can be stored in encrypted form into RAM.

13. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 11 wherein the built-in functions include rendering functions and transform functions.

14. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 13 wherein the rendering functions include one or more of close, find shape, full screen, go to, guides, help, open, order, pan, properties, reveal, rotate/flip, search, select, size and position, spell check, or zoom.

15. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 13 wherein the transform functions include one or more of copy, DRM Agent, export, insert, log, new, paste, print, replace, or save as,

16. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions to perform acts for storing digitally-encoded material, the acts comprising:

associating a unique identifier with the digitally-encoded material, wherein the unique identifier persists throughout the lifetime of the digitally-encoded material, regardless of any changes made to any portion of the digitally-encoded material, and wherein the unique identifier further persists in copies and other derived digitally-encoded material such that copies and derived digitally-encoded material include both the unique identifier of the digitally-encoded material and a new unique identifier for the copy or derived digitally-encoded material;

associating a plurality of built-in functions with the digitally-encoded material such that the unique identifier and the built-in functions are coupled to the digitally-encoded material;

associating a list of processors with each of the built-in functions such that only processors in the list associated with a particular built-in function are permitted to execute the built-in function;

receiving information regarding at least a processor attempting to render or transform the digitally encoded material via one or more of the built-in functions;

verifying if the processor is included in the list associated with each of the one or more built-in functions; and

rendering or transforming the digitally-encoded material based on the built-in functions, if the processor is included in the list, wherein the digitally-encoded material can be transformed and rendered only by the built-in functions and wherein at least one of the built-in functions is configured to automatically notify a selected entity when a specified built-in function has been executed or when execution has been attempted.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein the acts further comprise:

associating a history of the digitally-encoded material with the digitally-encoded material wherein the history is located in a database.

18-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein the built-in functions include one or more of copy, paste, print, encrypt, or decrypt and the associating the built-in functions with the digitally-encoded material enables the digitally-encoded material to be stored in RAM in an encrypted form.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions to perform a method for tracking digitally-encoded material, the method comprising:

appending a unique identifier to the digitally-encoded material, wherein the unique identifier persists throughout the lifetime of the digitally-encoded material, regardless of any changes made to any portion of the digitally-encoded material, and wherein the unique identifier further persists in copies and other derived digitally-encoded material such that copies and derived digitally-encoded material include both the unique identifier of the digitally-encoded material and a new unique identifier for the copy or derived digitally-encoded material;

encrypting a combination including the digitally-encoded material and the unique identifier;

forming an executable entity capable of being executed independent of a particular operating system by appending built-in function source code to the encrypted combination, wherein the digitally-encoded material can be transformed and rendered only by the built-in functions and wherein at least one of the built-in functions is configured to automatically notify a selected entity when a specified built-in function has been executed or when execution has been attempted;

storing a list of processors that are permitted to execute the built-in functions;

receiving information regarding a first processor attempting to execute one or more of the built-in functions;

verifying if the first processor attempting to execute the built-in functions is on the list of processors;

permitting the first processor to execute the one or more built-in functions if the processor is on the list else preventing the first processor from executing the one or more built-in functions.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer readable of claim 21 wherein the method further comprise:

tracking the digitally-encoded material by maintaining an auditable document history log.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 22 wherein the

auditable document history log is maintained in one of a file associated with the digitally-encoded material and a database independent of the digitally-encoded material.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, including the copy function in the transform functions wherein upon executing the copy function a second unique identifier is generated and appended to a generated copy of the digitally encoded material such that the copy comprises the unique identifier and the second unique identifier.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein executing the copy function updates document history of the digitally encoded material and the generated copy and informs at least an author of the digitally encoded material of the generated copy.